

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00  
HA-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 /125 W  
-----126161 010804Z /11

R 301528Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9233  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
USUN NEW YORK 2966  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 8101

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, MPOP, GW, NI  
SUBJECT: SCHMIDT IN LAGOS

REF: BONN 11697

SUMMARY: FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT COMPLETED A  
SUCCESSFUL THREE DAY STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA WHICH  
WAS MARKED BY BLUNT TALK ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND  
LIMITED FRG CONCESSIONS ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.  
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END SUMMARY.

1. FRG CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT LEFT LAGOS ON  
JUNE 28 AT THE CONCLUSION OF A THREE DAY  
STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA WHICH FEATURED BLUNT TALK  
ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC  
COOPERATION. THE SCHEDULE, ACCORDING TO MEA

AMERICAS DIRECTOR MUSA, WAS AT GERMAN INSISTANCE AN EXACT REPLICA OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO LAGOS. THUS, THE CHANCELLOR STAYED AT STATE HOUSE MARINA, DELIVERED A MAJOR SPEECH AT THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NIIA), VISITED THE NEW PORT FACILITIES AT TIN CAN ISLAND, LAID A WREATH AT THE CENOTAPH ON BALEWA SQUARE AND SIGNED A FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THE CHANCELLOR'S SIGHTSEEING IN LAGOS, HOWEVER, HAD A DISTINCTLY GERMAN FLAVOR WITH VISITS TO THE VOLKSWAGEN ASSEMBLY PLANT AND THE NEW MURTALA MUHAMMED AIRPORT FACILITIES BUILT BY STRABAG IN ADDITION TO THE TIN CAN ISLAND FACILITIES BUILT BY JULIUS BERGER (BILFINGER-BERGER). LOGISTICALLY, THE TRIP WENT WELL BUT FOR THE FACT THAT THE GERMANS ARRIVED MORE THAN AN HOUR LATE AND RAN THROUGH MUCH OF THE SCHEDULE BEHIND TIME WHICH MYSTIFIED THE NIGERIANS WHO HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE ON-TIME RECORD OF GERMAN CONSTRUCTION FIRMS.

2. SCHMIDT CAME TO LAGOS REALIZING FULL WELL THAT HE WOULD FACE TOUGH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE QUESTIONS ABOUT FRG POLICIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THESE EXPECTATIONS WERE CONFIRMED IN LOCAL PRESS COMMENT ON THE TRIP. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LEADING GOVERNMENT OWNED NEWSPAPER, THE DAILY TIMES, WHILE NOTING CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT FRG-NIGERIAN RELATIONS WERE "CORDIAL," GREETED SCHMIDT BY SAYING:

"APART FROM RHETORICAL PLATITUDES, NO DEFINITE STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE IN NAMIBIA. IN THEIR CURRENT PREOCCUPATION, MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE SEEM TO HAVE PUT IN COLD STORAGE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR LIBERATION IN ZIMBABWE. AND THE REPORTED INVOLVEMENT OF SOME WEST GERMAN INTERESTS IN THE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF THE WHITE RACIST REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA NATURALLY CAUSES ALARMING DISQUIET THROUGHOUT THE AFRICAN CONTINENT."

THE DT CONCLUDED:

"IT IS INTOLERABLE THAT WEST GERMAN POLICY IN AFRICA SHOULD BE SO WOOLLY AS TO BECOME A MATTER OF SPECULATION."

SCHMIDT APPARENTLY DECIDED IN ADVANCE TO CONFRONT THE NIGERIANS BLUNTLY AND PREEMPTIVELY, ON SOUTH AFRICA IN PARTICULAR, WHICH SET THE TONE FOR THE VISIT.

3. SCHMIDT'S TOUGH TACTICS WERE REFLECTED IN HIS MAJOR POLICY SPEECH AT NII. DELIVERING AN ADDRESS MAINLY ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY, THE CHANCELLOR OPENED WITH THE REMARK THAT THE FRG WAS A RESOURCE-POOR NATION WHICH LIVED ON MANUFACTURE AND TRADE. THE FRG TRADED WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. SCHMIDT SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT FRG MILITARY AND NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA WERE UNTRUE AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAD SUBMITTED THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION TO THE OAU ON THAT POINT. THE BULK OF SCHMIDT'S REMARKS WERE ON NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC RELATIONS, HOWEVER, HEX DID DIGRESS IN DETAIL TO

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NOTE FRG AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO SLAM THE PERFORMANCE OF EASTERN EUROPE COUNTRIES WHOSE ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA WAS SMALL AND CONCENTRATED ON ARMS TRANSFERS. ON THE WHOLE, NIGERIANS WERE IMPRESSED BY SCHMIDT'S REMARKS AND FOUND HIM TO BE TOUGH BUT INTELLIGENT AND HONEST.

4. THE TONE OF THE NIIA ADDRESS CARRIED OVER INTO THE BILATERAL TALKS. ACCORDING TO FRG EMBASSY COUNSELOR KUHNA, FMG HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO AND SCHMIDT DEVELOPED A GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BASED ON BLUNT, DIRECT DISCUSSIONS. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES, OBASANJO

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 8101

PRIVATELY WAS FORTHCOMING AND POSITIVE ALTHOUGH,  
ACCORDING TO KUHNA, AT THE WORKING LEVEL, THE NIGERIANS  
ATTEMPTED TO GET LANGUAGE INTO THE COMMUNIQUE  
WHICH DESCRIBED THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN FOR

RHODESIA AS FINISHED. POSITIONS ON SOUTHERN  
AFRICA WERE REITERATED AT THE JUNE 27 STATE BANQUET  
WHERE OBASANJO SAID THAT ANY COUNTRY'S COOPERA-  
TION WITH SOUTH AFRICA WAS "DISPARAGING" TO  
NIGERIA.

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5. THE GERMANS RAISED OTRAG AND DISASSOCIATED  
THEMSELVES FROM WHAT THEY SAID WAS A PRIVATE  
COMPANY THAT DOES NOT  
EVEN HAVE A BASE IN THE FRG. THEY ALSO POINTED  
OUT THAT OTRAG WAS ATTEMPTING TO PRODUCE SOLID  
FUEL ROCKETS THAT HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN OVERTAKEN  
BY MORE ADVANCE TECHNOLOGY. THE GERMANS  
DESCRIBED THE FUROR OVER OTRAG AS COMMUNIST  
PROPOAGANDA GENERATED WITHIN GERMANY.

6. ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, THE NIGERIANS APPARENTLY  
OBTAINED SOME COMMITMENT FROM THE FRG FOR FINAN-  
CIAL ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THE STEEL FACILITEIS  
AT WARRI. ACCORDING TO KUHNA, THE NIGERIANS ALSO  
REQUESTED THE GERMANS TO TAKE MORE NIGERIAN  
STUDENTS UNDER THE TECHNICAL MANPOWER TRAINING  
PROGRAM. THE GERMANS POINTED OUT THEY WOULD  
PREFER TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN NIGERIA AS IT IS  
LESS COSTLY. THEY RELUCTANTLY AGREED, HOWEVER,

TO ADMIT A FEW MORE STUDENTS FOR TRAINING IN SUCH HIGHLY SPECIALIZED FIELDS AS NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. THE CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS INITIATED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND WAS TO HAVE BEEN SIGNED BY THE HEADS OF STATE, WAS WITHDRAWN FOR SOME RENEGOTIATION AT NIGERIAN REQUEST.

7. ON JUNE 28, A JOINT SIX PAGE COMMUNIQUE WAS SIGNED WHICH GENERALLY AVOIDED MENTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT WHICH NOTED THAT SCHMIDT AND OBASANJO HAD "EXCHANGED FRANK VIEWS" AND HAD "REACHED PERFECT UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHERS VIEWS ON ALL THE POINTS DISCUSSED." ACCORDING

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TO KUHNA, NEGOTIATING THE COMMUNIQUE WAS A PROLONGED AND DIFFICULT PROCESS. THE NIGERIA'S DRAFT CONTAINED "INFLAMMATORY PROPAGANDA" SUCH AS CALLING FOR ARMED LIBERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND DESCRIBING FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE AS COLONIALIST IMPERIALISM. MEA EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT ACTING DIRECTOR B.O. AWOKOYA PROVIDED THE NIGERIAN INPUT BUT HE DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. THEREFORE, EVERY POINT HAD TO BE CLEARED WITH CABINET OFFICE POLITICAL DEPUTY SECRETARY B.G. KINGIBI, WHO WAS ACTING IN THE ABSENCE OF PERMSEC Y. ABUBAKAR. KUHNA SAID THE LANGUAGE QUOTED ABOVE DESCRIBED THEIR "PERFECT UNDERSTANDING" OVER THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT ON STATEMENTS CONCERNING SOUTHERN AFRICA.

8. COMMENT: ON THE WHOLE, IT WAS VINTAGE HELMUT SCHMIDT. BY ALL ACCOUNTS THE CHANCELLOR WAS TOUGH, BLUNT, CONFIDENT, AND AT TIMES IRONIC AND ACERBIC. SCHMIDT KNEW WHAT TO EXPECT ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND REPLIED CHARACTERISTICALLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NIGERIANS WERE AT SOMETHING OF A DISADVANTAGE IN THAT THEY WERE VERY MUCH THE DEMANDEUR IN THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS. AS A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE FMG SAID, THE NIGERIANS NEEDED "DESPERATELY" TO OBTAIN FRG ECONOMIC FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY WARRI, IN THE FACE OF DECLINING OIL REVENUES. FYI: NIGERIAN INTEREST IN THE TRIP IS PERHAPS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT THEY PAID EXPENSES FOR ALL 100 PLU MEMBERS OF THE SCHMIDT ENTOURAGE. DURING THE CARTER VISIT, THE NIGERIANS COVERED ONLY THE FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF THE PARTY WHO STAYED AT STATE HOUSE MARINA. END FYI. NEVERTHELESS, BOTH SIDES MADE THEIR POINTS CLEARLY

AND FRANKLY, AND BOTH SIDES GOT SOME OF WHAT  
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THEY WANTED. IN THAT SENSE, THE TRIP WAS A  
SUCCESS. ON A PERSONAL NOTE, WE WOULD REPORT THAT  
MEMBERS OF THE GERMAN COMMUNITY IN LAGOS WHO KNOW  
THE CHANCELLOR WELL WERE SHOCKED AT HOW MUCH HE  
HAD AGED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.  
WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 30 jun 1978  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014